

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

....MINUTES....

OF THE

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

MUD CREEK MISSIONARY
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH,

JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALA.

OCTOBER 13 and 14, 1899.

The next Session will be held with Concord Church, commencing on Friday
Before the Third Sunday in October, 1900.

BIRMINGHAM:
ROBERTS & SON,
1899.

MINUTES
OF THE
Twenty-Eighth Annual Session
OF THE
Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Association

FIRST DAY—MORNING SESSION.

EZRA, ALA., October 10, 1899.

The Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Association met this day in its twenty-eighth annual session in the meeting house of Oak Grove Baptist Church at 11 a. m.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder A. White from Colossians i: 12-13-18. Adjourned to 1:30 p.m.

EVENING SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the former Moderator, who read Psalms xxxii. Prayer by Rev. O. J. Waldrop. The names of the churches were then called, and letters laid on the table. Revs. J. D. Martin and J. C. Gilmer were appointed to read the names of the delegates enrolled, as follows:

ADGER—Rev. J. D. Martin, *S. L. Watts, *J. F. Boston.

BIG CREEK—Not represented.

CONCORD—Rev. A. White, T. N. Crowder, W. L. Knight.

CONNELSVILLE—*P. A. Jones, G. W. Herring, *J. C. Higdon.

FREEWILL—H. A. Quinn, C. B. Hood, *E. H. Tuggle.

HOPEWELL—J. B. Sanford, *J. M. Snow, J. C. Prescott.

LIBERTY—J. H. Hood, I. V. Salter, F. M. Vines.

Absentees.

MUD CREEK—W. L. Rainey, S. A. Parsons, J. K. P. Laird.

MT. IDA—A. P. Waldrop, J. H. Knight, W. I. Perry.

NEW BETHEL—Not represented.

OAK GROVE—J. A. Roberts, J. M. Hyche, J. M. Edwards.

PLEASANT HILL—Not represented.

ROCK CREEK—J. R. Reeves, J. T. McMicken, J. J. Waldrop.

SMITHVILLE—*L. Payne, R. L. Payne, J. Franklin.

SARDIS—Not represented.

UNION GROVE—Not represented.

The election of officers being declared in order, Rev. A. White was elected Moderator, and J. J. Waldrop, clerk. An invitation was offered newly constituted churches and churches with petitionary letters. Received none.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

DEVOTION—W. L. Rainey, J. A. Roberts, T. N. Crowder, with the deacons of Oak Grove Church.

DOCUMENTS—J. R. Reeves, J. K. P. Laird, J. M. Hyche.

NOMINATIONS—I. V. Salter, W. L. Knight, J. T. McMicken.

FINANCE—F. M. Vines, J. C. Prescott, W. I. Perry.

DECEASED MEMBERS—G. W. Herring, J. H. Knight, C. B. Hood.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.

Rev. W. R. Ivey, J. C. Gilmer, O. J. Waldrop, W. B. Earnest, and Jerry Fountain from the Birmingham Association.

Rev. J. A. Glenn, from the Cahaba Valley Association.

Rev. G. R. Fuller, from the Tuscaloosa Association.

C. B. Guinn, from Mt. Moriah Association.

C. H. Bridges, from Harmony Association.

On motion of Rev. J. D. Martin the constitution, rules of decorum, and abstract of principles were read by Jerry Fountain.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

“BRETHREN—We are commanded to abstain from every appearance of evil, and to be sober-minded. Brethren, we believe that intoxicating whiskey is not the only thing that will make men drunk. We find in Revelations xvii: 2, ‘With whom the kings

* Absentees.

of the earth have committed fornication and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.' Now, brethren, what does this mean? Now, brethren, we that claim to know God in the free pardon of our sins, take up our cross and follow Him. Now, let us abstain from every appearance of intemperance, brethren. A drunkard's misfortune is: 'I die a wretched sinner, and I leave to the world a worthless reputation, a wicked example, and a memory that is only fit to perish; I leave to my parents sorrow and bitterness of their souls all the days of their lives; I leave to my brothers and sisters shame and grief, and the reproach of their acquaintances; I leave my wife widowed and heartbroken, and a life of lonely struggling with want and suffering; I leave my children a tainted name and a ruined position, a pitiful ignorance and a mortifying recollection of a father who, by his life, disgraced humanity, and at his premature death joined the great company of those who are never to enter the kingdom of God.'

G. W. HERRING."

Discussed by G. W. Herring, Revs. G. H. Bean, J. D. Martin, G. R. Fuller, W. R. Ivey, J. A. Glenn, W. B. Earnest, and adopted.

Committee on devotion reported preaching tomorrow at 11 a. m., by Rev. W. B. Earnest, after prayer by Rev. J. A. Glenn.

Adjourned to meet tomorrow at 9 a. m.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Rev. W. B. Earnest.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Having been appointed by this Association of October, 1898, to prepare a report on education for the next session, I humbly submit the following:

"Looking over the field I find the facilities for education are much better than when I was a boy, and that the rising generations are striving to avail themselves of the present opportunities; and, still better, parents are laboring to give their children better education than they have. I find parents who have little

or no education that have children that have a respectable education, and, in not a few instances, good school teachers have sprung from such parentage—the result of self-sacrifice on the part of their parents, inspired with an anxiety to see their children educated. I find one sad feature about the present inspiration for an education often developing itself, viz.: I very often hear the remark, 'I want to educate my son so he won't have to work so hard.' The result is, he seeks easy positions with large pay until he becomes a tramp. Such things ought not to be. It is a known fact that the majority of the successful business men in the cities came from the country, where only a common school education could be obtained, with lots of hard work between meals; while many who were educated in the cities with so-called classic advantages, turn out to be town bums. I wish now to ask a few questions, offer answers and make a few suggestions.

1. Why do we grind edged tools? *Answer.* That they may be more useful. 2. Why do we train stock? *Answer.* That they may serve us better. 3. I want to suggest this; that no institution of learning should consider itself complete without some industrial feature with it instead of foot and base ball grounds, or a gymnasium either. Sorry am I that in one of our finest schools for girls in this state, their barbarous dispositions are cultivated in that they are taught to imitate birds, wind-mills, gladiators and other animals; and even the war dance is engaged in with wild gesticulation; all to lively music. But glad am I to report that many of our schools are originating industrial enterprises in connection with mental training. The Girls' Industrial School at Montevallo is quite an improvement; and at the Baptist Orphanage at Evergreen, Ala., the children are taught to work both in the field and house at such things as are becoming to their sex. All things considered, education in its true sense is noticeably advancing. I recommend Howard College, at East Lake, and the Judson, at Marion, as our denominational schools.

"Respectfully submitted,
J. D. MARTIN."

Discussed by Revs. J. D. Martin, A. White, J. C. Gilmer, W. B. Earnest, J. A. Glenn, Jerry Fountain. On motion preaching was dispensed with and the report still discussed by O. J. Waldrop. Bro. Lee Birchfield was received as corresponding

messenger from Mt. Moriah Association, and also discussed the subject. The report was then adopted.

Adjourned until 1 p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, who offered prayer.

J. J. Nicholson was seated as corresponding messenger from Harmony Association, and J. B. Burton from Mt. Moriah Association.

A collection was taken up for W. L. Knight as follows: Andrew Burgin, \$5; H. C. Miller, \$2.50; C. B. Gwin, \$1; Caroline Hodges, \$2; Jerry Fountain, \$5; J. F. McLaughlin, \$1.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

"Your Committee on Sabbath Schools submit the following: I have inquired as to the effort to have Sabbath Schools in the several churches of this Association, and I find the work not what it ought to be in all of them. I find that some have good and well attended schools. The interest in the work of the schools tells how much is being done to bring the knowledge of Christ before the attention of the children early in life. Brethren, let us give our attention to this work and perform the duty we owe to ourselves, our children and to God. By so doing we let in the light of the gospel that came by Christ, and that light lighteth up the path of every man into life and salvation. The Sabbath School work is a part of our duty, brethren; it urges us well, and the reward is great when we consider it begets system in the mind of the old and young for the study of the Bible and testament. I would recommend the Sabbath School literature published by the Southern Mission Board, Nashville, Tenn. We feel that in this work there is a great deal of information condensed and corrected by presenting to the mind of the young and to us of limited study. I further hope all of our churches will take the Sabbath School work under consideration, and be benefitted thereby.

S. A. PARSONS."

Discussed by S. A. Parsons, Rev. O. J. Waldrop, G. W. Herring, W. L. Knight, and adopted.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

The position of the State Board of Missions in our system of mission work is by but few of the Baptists of Alabama correctly estimated. The object of this report will be to place before this body a plain statement of the objects for which this Board was created, and to strive thereby to awaken a deeper interest in the work. 1. To the State Board is committed all the interests of missions in Alabama, including the interests of the Home Mission Board at Atlanta, and the Foreign Mission Board at Richmond. The employes of the State Board are careful to look after their several phases of missions, realizing the distinctions between them are only in name, each having in view the same grand purpose, viz: The extension of the Master's Kingdom ameng men in obedience to His command. With this idea in view, it is clearly set forth that contributions to the support of the State Board are indirectly a contribution to home and foreign boards. The prosperity, then, of every phase of mission work depends upon the prosperity of the State Board.

2. EVANGELICAL WORK.—This means the employment of consecrated men to travel and preach among the churches, striving to awaken a deeper interest in the cause of missions at home and abroad, as well as visiting destitute regions and preaching to the lost the fearless gospel of the blessed God. The importance of this work can be better appreciated when we remember that out of the large number of white Baptists in the state not more than 12,000 are making contributions to missions.

3. MISSIONARY PASTORAL WORK.—This work consists in helping to support pastors at important points that give promise of soon growing into self-supporting churches. Beyond question this is one of the brightest pages in the history of the State Board. There remaineth yet much land to be possessed.

4. HOME MISSIONS.—The recent war with Spain and the consequent acquisition of new territory in the West India Islands has greatly enlarged the demands upon our Home Mission Board. A great opportunity is presented to the Baptists in this new territory, which will greatly increase our contributions to this cause. The territory of the Home Mission Board embraces Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida,

Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, New Mexico, Indian Territory, Oklahoma and Cuba.

The board is supporting 653 missionaries who constituted 194 churches, organized 512 Sunday Schools with 4,768 teachers and pupils, built 92 and improved 252 houses of worship at a cost of \$71,027, added 12,983 members to the 2,580 churches and stations.

5. FOREIGN MISSIONS.—The last words of our risen and ascending Lord were : "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations." It is the same command, though nearly nineteen centuries have passed since it was first spoken to the apostles, and it must be handed on from age to age, echoed and re-echoed, until the earth and the fullness thereof come into conscious and willing accord with the Creator and His only begotten Son, who is all and above all, blessed forever. The command is world-wide, and world-wide must be the kingdom that is to execute the command effectively. Is it not high time, brethren in the Lord, that the various Christian churches, with their missionaries in every quarter of the globe, shold unify their work and present a solid front at home and abroad to the forces of evil? What an influence for the cause of Christ would the church of God then be? We have in the foreign mission field 90 missionaries, 150 native assistants, 125 churches, 160 stations. The membership is 6,125 ; baptisms, 950 ; day schools, 55 ; scholars, 1,275 ; Sunday school scholars, 2,895. The receipts for the foreign board are \$109,267.43, and contributions from native churches, \$7,110.20.

Ah, my brethren, what the heathen world needs, and what we at home most need, is an object lesson among Christians themselves, manifesting that the influence of Christ, our Lord, is to cause men to dwell together in unity and love. Let us rise to the height to which God has called us through Jesus Christ, and feel ourselves a part of the vast throng of believers gathered out of every nation and tongue and people that on earth do dwell.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. REEVES.

The report was so full and complete it was considered unnecessary to discuss it, and it was adopted.

The following standing committees were appointed :
 Education, I. V. Salter; Sunday Schools, W. L. Knight ;
 Temperance, S. A. Parsons ; Missions, J. R. Reeves.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

We, your Committee, after examining the letters from the various churches, find a request from Concord Church asking for the next session of this body. We also find a letter from Oak Grove Church asking for a letter of dismission from this body.

J. R. REEVES, Chairman.

REPORT ON DECEASED MEMBERS.

We, your Committee on Deceased Members, report with sorrow and sad hearts several of our members who have been called away since our last meeting. Those that are at rest with Christ in glory are: Bro. Michael Mims, of Connellsville Church ; Sister Mittie Waldrop, of Oak Grove Church ; Sister Lucy Howton, of Mud Creek Church. Respectfully submitted,

G. W. HERRING, Chairman.

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

We, your Committee on Nominations, recommend that the next session of this body convene with Concord Church on Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1900; we also recommend that the introductory sermon be preached by Elder G. B. Vines at 11 o'clock on Friday ; the missionary sermon by Elder A. J. Batson at 11 o'clock on Sunday. Respectfully,

I. V. SALTER, Chairman.

FINANCE REPORT.

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to report as follows :

For Associational purposes	\$ 8 60
" Minutes	10 81
" State Missions	7 95
" Home Missions	14 90
" Orphans Home	1 00
Total	\$ 43 26

Respectfully submitted, F. M. VINES, Chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

I report that I received from the last Association the sum of \$ 50 81
Have paid by order of the Association the following amounts

State Board at Montgomery	\$ 25 31
Orphans Home at Evergreen	3 20
Minutes	10 00
Clerk of Association	7 00
Bro. White, Moderator	5 30
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	\$ 50 81
Balance on hand	\$ 50 81

Respectfully submitted. nil.

J. K. P. LAIRD, Treas.

On motion W. B. Earnest was recognized as agent for Orphans Home, and \$14.99 was contributed to the Orphans Home Fund.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. *Resolved*, That our hearty thanks be tendered the good people of Oak Grove for their kindness and hospitality while among them.

2. *Resolved*, That the collection on tomorrow be equally divided between the Mission Cause, the Orphans Home and Howard College in favor of W. L. Knight.

3. *Resolved*, That we congratulate our Moderator for his wise and brotherly ruling while serving us.

4. *Resolved*, That we pay the Clerk \$8.60 for his services, the remaining amount of Minute Funds be spent for printing Minutes and mailing expenses.

On motion the Minutes were read and adopted.

A collection taken up for the Moderator amounted to \$3.65.

Adjourned to meet with Concord Church on Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1900.

A. WHITE, Moderator.

J. J. WALDROP, Clerk.

APPENDIX.

Sunday, 11 a. m., the missionary sermon was preached by Rev. J. D. Martin from Exodus iii: 3: "And Moses said, I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not consumed." A collection was then taken up, amounting to \$16.25.

STATISTICAL TABLE MUD CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION:

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS.

G. H. BEAN.....	Ezra, Ala.
A. J. BATSON.....	Earnest, "
J. H. MAULDIN.....	Quinton, "
J. D. MARTIN.....	Bessemer, "
W. H. SNOW.....	Snow, "
E. H. TUGGLE.....	Palos, "
G. B. VINES.....	Short Creek, "
A. WHITE.....	Earnest, "



Rev. Mr. More
Eastgate
Oxon

